



NC RURAL CENTER

Legislative Glossary

We have provided the terms and definitions below to serve as a resource as you navigate our legislative tracker.

Veto: When a bill is agreed upon and passed by both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor to be signed into law. If the bill is rejected by the Governor, it is vetoed. After the bill is vetoed, it then returns back to the legislature where they can either attempt to override the veto, revise the bill, or let the bill expire for that particular session.

Appropriations: Monies allocated by the North Carolina General Assembly through legislation.

Conference Committee: According to the North Carolina constitution, both chambers of the state's legislature must agree upon the language of all bills sent to the Governor. The Conference Committee is a group of appointed legislators who are responsible for coming to a compromise on legislation that caused disagreement between the chambers. Conferees are appointed by the presiding officers of the Chamber, who are the Speaker of the House and/or President Pro Tempore.

Conference Report: The compromise produced by conference committee members.

PCS: A Proposed Committee Substitute is an amendment or addition to a bill being proposed within a particular committee in either chamber.

Favorable/Unfavorable Report: Once a bill is filed and presented in each chamber, it then undergoes a review process in various committees. If a committee votes in favor of the bill, it receives a favorable report and can advance to the next step of the legislative process. An unfavorable report is when a bill fails to progress out of a committee.

Reading: A reading is a presentation of the bill to the entire chamber. In order for a bill to become a law, it must be filed, successfully garner enough affirmative votes in its first reading, receive a favorable report out of committees, and then again receive majority support in each chamber during its second and third readings.

Sine Dine [pronounced sign-e-die]: Sine Dine, a Latin term meaning "without day," is when the North Carolina General Assembly adjourns its session, either to reconvene on a certain date or ultimately conclude the session.

Long Session: A Long Session, which occurs during odd-numbered years, is traditionally from January to mid-June. During this session, legislators are welcome to write and offer bills on any topic, and are obligated to write and pass a two-year budget for the State. About two-thirds of the way into the session, there is a day titled the "Crossover Day," in which any new legislation must be passed by either the House OR Senate in order to be heard in both the Long and Short sessions.

Short Session: A Short Session, which occurs during even-numbered years, is traditionally from May 16 to the July 4th holiday. This session is used only to offer amendments or adjustments to the budget, and to consider any bills that were passed by the crossover deadline, but not by both houses.

For a more extensive set of legislative definitions, visit the NC General Assembly website at:
<https://www.ncleg.gov/Help/Category/Glossary>.